

Planners Approve Beach Tract, Hold Up Another

'MURDER MILE' FATALITY FIRST IN '55

187 Lots Studied By Group

The controversial Don-Ja-Ran tract near the ocean was finally approved by the Planning Commission Wednesday night, but the Kissel tract, long a subject of debate, was referred back to committee.

The Don-Ja-Ran tract was approved after the company agreed to let the Torrance Unified School District have a 6.6 acre plot in the area for a new elementary school. Tract maps showing this change were presented Wednesday night.

Although it originally called for 211 lots, addition of the school caused a reduction to 170.

The tract was approved providing a uniform five-foot masonry wall is built along property along Palos Verdes Blvd., and providing grading plans in the area are submitted to the Planning Commission first.

Sent to Committee
At the same time, another controversial tract, presented by Harry Kissel, was referred to committee after a new tract map may be presented.

The tract, containing 441 lots, was originally rejected because there were no outlets from the district except through narrow streets of already overcrowded Southwest Torrance and because no park was shown in the new area.

Cmdr. William A. Mason, chairman of the original committee studying the tract, noted that he could see few changes except that a street had been added to connect the tract with Newton St.

Kissel agreed to have members of the Recreation Commission inspect the area for a park site. At its Tuesday meeting Mrs. Herma Tillin and Robert Waegner were named to study the area.

Objections Told
Other previous objections included the numbering system used for houses, which conflicted with that further west, the lack of 50-foot wide streets, and a blanket variance for all streets except Calle de Arboles, which would have made

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Lomita Air Raid Siren Test Set At 2:30 Tuesday

When local residents hear a loud siren Tuesday afternoon, it won't mean that the enemy is coming, but merely that the new sirens are being tested.

Civil Defense officials have announced that the first test of the recently-erected 180-horsepower air raid siren in Lomita Park will be made Tuesday about 2:30 p.m. Required adjustments will follow the test.

Sirens in all parts of the county will be tested individually on Tuesday and Wednesday. Later, a general attack warning test using all the sirens will be held to assure full coverage of the county.

All sirens to be tested this week are of the "super" variety, designed to carry about four miles.

Firemen Revive Pair in Blaze

Firemen used a resuscitator and applied first aid to a man and his wife who were overcome by smoke as fire did slight damage to their home, Saturday morning.

Chester O. Barker, 24, of 123 W. 213th Pl., was taken to Harbor General Hospital after firemen revived him at the scene of the blaze. His wife was given first aid and released.

Firemen from two county fire companies quickly extinguished the blaze. Damage was set at \$75.

Year's Building Gets Fast Start

Building in Torrance got off to a flying start as \$1,790,776 in permits was issued during the first week of 1955, according to Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the City Engineer's office.

Biggest item in the total was a permit for 104 homes from the G and G Construction Co. between 179th and 180th, from Crenshaw Blvd. to Glenburn Ave., valued at \$1,102,500.

A new fire station, to be built at Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St., accounted for \$193,400 of the total, while a warehouse at 2201 Dominguez St., proposed by A. Rochlin, was valued at \$110,000.

The Torrance Unified School District took out permits totaling \$175,000. Kindergarten and three classroom units each will be built at Seaside and North Torrance Elementary Schools, while one classroom and one kindergarten unit will be built at Perry School.

Valued at \$84,000, permits for the Pride of Torrance Hotel at 1800 Crabtree Ave., were issued.

The Rome Cable Corp. got a \$25,000 permit for construction of water cooling and recirculating system at 1739 W. 213th St.

City to Get State Funds

Appropriation of \$36,635 to the city of Torrance from the County's Aid to Cities fund for improvement of 171st St. from Ainsworth to Glenburn Aves., and other road projects, has been authorized by the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced this week.

The allocation also included the Torrance share of cost of traffic signals which are to be installed at Redondo Beach Blvd. and Yukon Ave., Hahn said.

Willd Assumes Washington Job

Taking over duties as the new legislative assistant to Senator Thomas Kuchel in Washington, D.C., last week was Atty. John A. Willd Jr., who was a candidate here for election to the California Assembly from the 68th district last year.

Willd succeeds Howard H. Schmidt, who resigned last month after serving on the Senator's staff nearly two years. Schmidt will resume the practice of law in California.

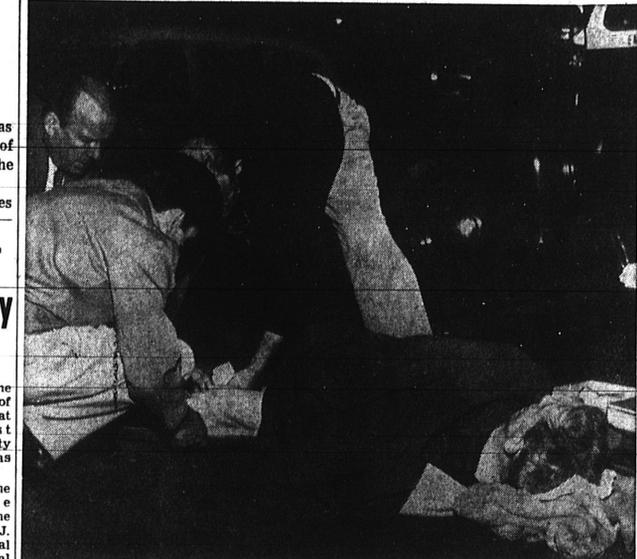
The new legislative assistant arrived in Washington last week and will be joined soon by his wife, Beverly, and the couple's two children, Charles, 3, and Shirley, 7 months.

Willd is the son of Dr. John A. Willd and Mrs. Kathleen Willd. He has lived in California since 1929, attending grammar and junior high schools in San Pedro before going to John Marshall High in Los Angeles and the California Preparatory School. He attended UCLA for one semester before entering the Army in March, 1943.

Attached to the 52nd Amphibious Engineers, he saw active service for 18 months in the Pacific Theater. Among the operations in which he participated were New Guinea, Leyte, Mindanao, and Korea.

Following his release from service in February, 1946, Willd returned to UCLA where he obtained a bachelor of political science degree in 1949. He received his law degree from the University of Southern California school of law in 1952 and joined Boris S. Woolley in the practice of law in Torrance.

While in Torrance, Willd was a member of the Torrance Lions Club, and was a director of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce. He also is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Alpha Delta fraternities.



HIGHWAY FATALITY . . . Eugene A. Sells, 72, of 24458 Park St., died an hour after being hit by an auto on Pacific Coast Hwy. near the Torrance Municipal Airport entrance, for the city's first traffic death of 1955. Driving the car was Glenn Keach, of Rolling Hills. Sells succumbed at Harbor General Hospital.

Homeowners Group Lists Objections to Rezoning

The major objections to north Torrance zoning plans involve the commercial zoning of 174th St. from Prairie Ave. eastward, the Planning Commission learned Wednesday night.

Muri Reeves, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., expressed opposition to the zoning, but said that commercial zoning in vacant areas would be all right.

Presenting petitions signed by 50 persons, the Rev. Homer H. Miller, of the Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church, 3347 W. 174th St., opposed commercial zoning for the north side of 174th St. He asked commissioners who was going to stand the loss for the service road which would be built, and how much the setback would be.

Restrictions Asked
Mrs. B. R. McIligan, of 4138 W. 174th St., and Mrs. Pauline LoBuglio, of 17405 Elgar Ave., asked for more restrictive commercial zoning on 174th St.

Commissioner Bert Lynn assured the persons attending the hearing that landscaping would separate the stores from the surrounding homes, and that 100 foot parking lots would also separate the two. "Adequate parking" was promised by Lynn.

Commissioners said that persons in homes and businesses in the proposed zoning areas would not be affected by the change.

Areas Told
Areas proposed for the C-2 classification include:
1. Undeveloped areas at 174th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., including the land adjoining the post office and market.

2. Undeveloped areas at 182nd St. and Hawthorne Ave.
3. The north side of 174th St. from Prairie Ave. to the west side of the proposed Sepulveda Freeway, and continuing on the other side to a point 79 feet east of Glenburn Ave.

4. The south side of 174th St. from Prairie Ave. to Ainsworth Ave., excluding freeway land.
5. The northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of 182nd St. and Arlington Ave.

Areas proposed for manufacturing classification include:
1. Undeveloped areas along Gramercy Ave.
2. The corner of 174th St. and Western Ave.
3. The Edison Co. substation.

The next hearing on the zoning plans will be held Feb. 2.

174th Zone Opposed by Homeowners

The North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. is opposed to rezoning of 174th St. from Prairie Ave. eastward because of traffic and safety hazards and because it would not be uniform, President Muri Reeves told the HERALD Saturday.

Members of the NTCIA feel that rezoning of the area is unnecessary, he said, because of the number of other commercial developments scheduled to be located in other parts of north Torrance. He pointed out that there was no opposition to rezoning of these other areas.

Traffic would be increased considerably, the group feels, with a resulting threat to children crossing 174th St.

Another factor is that present property owners could not be forced to move existing structures, which would mar the appearance and be a threat to safety in the area, Reeves said.

Man Hit Crossing Highway

The city's first 1955 traffic death was recorded last week as a pedestrian crossing Pacific Coast Hwy. "Murder Mile" was struck, and died an hour later at Harbor General Hospital.

Dead is Eugene A. Sells, 77, of 24458 Park St., south Torrance.

Driving the auto which struck Sells was Glenn Keach, of 9 Eastfield Dr., Rolling Hills. Officer Joe Miles said Sells apparently was crossing the highway near the entrance to the Torrance Airport. Late Wednesday evening, when he was hit by the car.

Keach told investigators he did not see Sells until his auto was nearly on top of him.

Funeral services for the victim will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel. The Rev. C. M. Northrup will officiate.

Surviving Sells are two sons, Major F. of the Park St. address, and William, of 1024 Acacia Ave.; and three grandchildren, William Eugene, Glenn Major, and Bonnie Jean.

Killed in a traffic accident Tuesday at Carson St. and Figueroa in county territory was William Willowden, 38, of 28 Long Beach. An auto in which she was riding collided with a truck, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Services were held Saturday at the Stone and Myers Chapel, with the Rev. C. M. Northrup in charge. She is survived by her husband, two children, a mother and father, a sister, and five brothers.

Club Installs New Officers

A more positive approach to all phases of living was urged by Dr. Gerald M. Eastham, M. D., at his installation as president of the Kiwanis Club last Friday night at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

"By sponsoring community activities and actively encouraging organizations having as their goals sound family living, we Kiwanians can help serve the cause—that of building character in our boys and girls," he said.

Also installed as new Kiwanis officers were: Joe Doss, first vice-president; Jay Barrington, second vice-president; Angus McVieer, secretary; Clint Meadway, treasurer; Byron Scotton, immediate past president; and Don Hitchcock, W. H. Haslam, Ted Meier, Mark McIlwaine, Alen Smith, Dean Sears, Bill Laster, Chuck Schultz Jr., and Tommy Wilkes, board of directors.

Dr. Eastham, retiring this year after a term as chief of staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital, pledged to make the 40th anniversary of the Kiwanis in the U. S. and Canada a challenge to the future.

Engineers Preparing 223rd St. Sewer Plans

The Board of Supervisors last week ordered the county engineer to continue with re-determining proceedings and prepare plans for sewers in 223rd St., between Vermont Ave. and Meyer St.

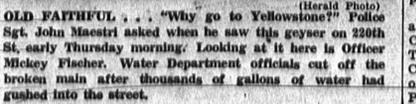
Bids for the construction of the sewers will be announced in the future, it was revealed.

Area Residents Offered Chance To Earn Money

The TORRANCE HERALD will inaugurate a community-wide program on Jan. 26 which will require the employment of a limited number of local residents for eight weeks in part-time or full-time work.

The program will enable those working with the HERALD in the project to earn a substantial amount of money. Any club, church or other group or organization desiring to raise funds may find the program attractive.

Groups interested in obtaining further information about the program should contact W. M. Shuts at the HERALD by calling FA 8-4000 or by visiting Shuts at the HERALD office at 1619 Gramercy Ave.



OLD FAITHFUL . . . "Why go to Yellowstone?" Police Sgt. John Maestr asked when he saw this geyser on 220th St. early Thursday morning. Looking at it here is Officer Mickey Fischer. Water Department officials cut off the broken flasher after thousands of gallons of water had gushed into the street.



WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT . . . Senator Thomas Kuchel (right) welcomes his new legislative assistant, Atty. John A. Willd Jr., to Washington. Willd, who began his law practice here in 1952 with Attorney Boris S. Woolley, will move his family to Washington soon, he reports.